

Message Text

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ACTION IO-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 AF-06 ARA-06 EA-06 NEA-10

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 DHA-02 ORM-01 MMS-01

DIWY-01 AID-05 /106 W

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TO SECSTATE WAHDC929

INFO AMEMBASSY LISBON

C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN 3198

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UN, PO

SUBJ: PORTUGUESE AMBASSADOR'S STATEMENT ON THIRTIETH

ANNIVERRY OF UN AND AFTEREFFECTS

REF: USUN 3182

1. PORTUGUESE PRMREP VEIGA-SIMAO CREATED MILD STIR DURING CEREMONIES JUNE 26 CELEBRATING THIRTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF UNITED NATIONS WHEN HE SPOKE ON BEHALF WESTERN EUROPEAN GROUP. HE HAS NOW FURNISHED US WITH FULL TEXT HIS REMARKS WHICH HAVE BEEN TRANSMITTED IN REFTEL.

2. WHILE PAYING TRIBUTE TO EUROPEAN NATIONS AS COUNTRIES WHICH FOR CENTURIES DETERMINED COURSE OF THE WORLD'S HISTORY AND MADE "INCOMPARABLE CONTRIBUTION" TO PROGRESS OF PHILOSOPHY, ART, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, VIEGA-SIMAO QUICKLY LEFT EUROPE BEHIND FOR WIDER TURF AND EXTENSIVE CONCENTRATION ON PORTUGAL AND RECENT DEVELOPMENTS INVOLVING PORTUGAL AND PORTUGUESE TERRITORIES. VEIGA-SIMAO PAID TRIBUTE TO AIMS OF PORTUGUESE REVOLUTION BUT THEN WENT ON TO SPEAK OF CIVIL, POLITICAL, ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL RIGHTS IN TERMS WHICH CLEARLY IMPLIED CRITICISM OF HIS OWN GOVERNMENT AND TOTALI-
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TARIAN REGIMES IN GENERAL. HE SPOKE OUT AGAINST

CONDEMNATION OF PERSONS WITHOUT TRIAL, AS WELL AS REFUSAL OF EMPLOYMENT AND ARBITRARY DISMISSAL, SITUATIONS CURRENT IN TODAY'S PORTUGAL, AND ASSERTED THAT DEMOCRACIES DESCRIBE THEMSELVES IN VARIOUS WAYS BUT ARE ONLY TRULY DEMOCRATIC "WHEN THEY RESPECT HUMAN AND ECONOMIC RIGHTS AND FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS, SUCH AS..."

3. SOME REPRESENTATIVES OF EE BLOC COUNTRIES OBSERVED AT THE CEREMONIES WERE DISTINCTLY UNHAPPY WITH VEIGA-SIMAO'S ADDRESS AND DID NOT APPLAUD HIM. MATTER HAS NOT RECEIVED MUCH LOCAL PRESS ATTENTION, ALTHOUGH NEW YORK POST ARTICLE DESCRIBED HIS SPEECH AS AMOUNTING TO AN ATTACK ON HIS OWN GOVERNMENT.

4. AT HIS REQUEST I MET WITH VEIGA-SIMAO TODAY FOR DISCUSSION OF THE SITUATION. VEIGA-SIMAO SAID HIS STATEMENT HAD BEEN CAREFULLY DRAFTED AND AMOUNTED TO A PUBLIC TESTAMENT OF FAITH ON HIS PART. A MEMBER OF HIS STAFF, NAME BELIEVED TO BE LEITE FERREIRA (DOES NOT APPEAR IN DIPLOMATIC LIST), SON OF A FORMER PORTUGUESE AMBASSADOR AND ONE WHO HAD IMPORTUNED HIM TO SERVE WITH HIM IN NEW YORK, HAD LEARNED OF CONTENTS OF SPEECH AND HAD SURREPTITIOUSLY TELEPHONED LISBON TO URGE THE GOVERNMENT TO ORDER VEIGA-SMAO NOT TO MAKE SPEECH ON JUNE 26. VEIGA-SIMAO HAD CONSIDERED LEITE FERREIRA AS SOMETHING OF A PLAYBOY, BUT NOW BELIEVES HIM TO BE A COMMUNIST AGENT. FOREIGN MINISTRY HAD INDEED TRIED TO REACH VEIGA-SIMAO ON JUNE 26 BUT IT WAS ALREADY TOO LATE.

5. VEIGA-SIMAO'S APPEARANCE IN LISBON WITH COMMITTEE OF 24 HAD BEEN A SUCCESS IN HIS VIEW, AND HE HAD RECEIVED PUBLIC PRAISE FROM CHAIRMAN SALIM (A FACT WHICH VEIGA-SIMAO INCLUDED IN HIS JUNE 26 ADDRESS AS MEANS OF ESTABLISHING HIS LIBERAL CRDENTIALS.) GOVERNMENT HAS ASKED VEIGA-SIMAO DURING HIS RECENT VISIT TO EXTEND HIS STAY OFFICIALLY BY ONE MONTH TO END OF JULY. HOWEVER, VEIGA-SIMAO SAID HE SPECULATED AFTER HIS JUNE 26 ADDRESS HE DID NOT KNOW WHETHER THAT DATE WOULD HOLD.

6. IT DID NOT HOLD. ON FRIDAY EVENING, JUNE 27, VEIGA-SIMAO RECEIVED ABRUPT TELEGRAM FROM LISBON ORDERING HIM CONFIDENTIAL

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TO TURN OVER OFFICE TO DEPUTY COSTA LOBO. THIS VEIGA-SIMAO HAS DONE ALTHOUGH FOR PRESENT HE CONTINUES TO GO INTO THE OFFICE. OVER THE WEEKEND A FRIEND ARRIVED FROM PORTUGAL WITH LATEST EDITION OF EXPRESSO NEWSPAPER. EXPRESSO CARRIED ARTICLE REPORTING THAT ARMED FORCES COUNCIL HAD TAKEN ACTION PROHIBITING VEIGA-SIMAO FROM HOLDING ANY PUBLIC OFFICE, WHICH WOULD INCLUDE PROFESSORSHIP AS WELL AS GOVERNMENT POSITION. AS OF TODAY, VEIGA-SIMAO HAS RECEIVED NO OFFICIAL

NOTICE OF THIS REPORTED ACTION.

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